

NOTES ON THE NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF
ORTHOPLLEURA SPIN.
(Coleoptera, Cleridae)

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The writer trusts that the following notes and key may prove to be of some aid to students of our beetle fauna. The occurrence of a supposedly new species enables the author to include its description. All the known species with the exception of three (*O. purpurea* Gohr., *O. ichnoides* Chev., and *O. suturalis* Chev.) are before the writer at this time. The characters used in the key for these three species are derived from their original descriptions.

The presence of a more or less distinct, post-median elytral pale fleck is a matter of no moment, as it may, or may not occur in individuals of the same species. The punctuation of the elytra is rarely of any importance as a diagnostic character due to the fact that it is so nearly identical in the different species, that it could better be considered as of generic value, hence these features are given but little consideration in the following accounts.

ORTHOPLLEURA CYANIPENNIS CHAPIN

Orthopleura cyanipennis Chapin, Proc. Ent. Soc., Wash., 22:52. 1920.

A paratype of this fine and beautiful Mexican species is strikingly similar in size, color and form to *Tenerus higonius* Lewis, a Formosan insect, but the resemblance, remarkable as it is, is merely superficial. *Cyanipennis* is a slender species with head, prothorax and legs bright red, the elytra steel blue. Length (in specimen at hand) 7.6 mm.

Orthopleura hintoni Wolcott, new species

Allied to *O. cyanipennis* Chapin, but more robust. Head, prothorax, base of antennae, body beneath and legs red. Head rather coarsely punctured, the occiput finely but distinctly rugulose. Antennae with scape and next two or three segments red, the balance of the segments of the funicle light piceous, shining, clava dark piceous. Sides of prothorax straight, pronotum quadrate, rather coarsely punctured, sides densely punctured, all punctures well separated, at middle of base a large smooth tubercle prolonged

anteriorly as a smooth, feeble costa to beyond the middle of the disk, the tubercle and costa with a few rather coarse, scattered punctures. Head and thorax rather densely clothed with long reddish hairs. Elytra blue, basal three-fifths rather coarsely and moderately densely punctured, basal portion scabrous in small areas, in other small places there is a tendency for the punctures to become seriate; apical two-fifths finely and densely punctured, these fine punctures also intermixed with the coarse punctures of basal portion. Pubescence erect, moderately dense and fine, black. Scutellum obscurely red. Legs red, distinctly punctured and pubescent. Length, 9.6 mm.

Holotype, a female in the collection of the author, MAZATLAN, (West Coast) MEXICO, collected by Dr. H. E. Hinton, August 4, 1932, to whom this fine species is dedicated.

This species is so closely allied to *O. cyanipennis* Chapin, that it is only after long consideration that the writer has ventured to characterize it. The more robust form, the coarser puncturing and the presence of feeble costa are the characters depended upon for the recognition of this species.

ORTHOPLEURA QUADRATICOLLIS SPINOLA

Orthopleura quadraticollis Spinola, Mon. Clér. pl. XXXII, fig. 4, 1844.

In 1910 (Publ. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zoöl. Ser., Vol. VII, no. 10, p. 393), the writer called attention to this species and gave some descriptive notes drawn from the figure given by Spinola. Due to the fact that Spinola lost his descriptive notes he figured but did not describe this species and he failed to mention the locality or country from which his specimen was derived. However, the figure is very good, and should serve to identify the species. Sometime ago the writer received from Drs. H. E. Hinton and R. L. Usinger a fine male specimen of this species collected at Bejucos, Temescaltepec, Mexico, July 4, 1937. This specimen agrees in all respects with the cited figure by Spinola, and affords an opportunity to describe it in detail and thus make it better known.

General color deep rich red; form elongate, subcylindrical, rather robust; elytra moderately convex, conjointly rounded at apex, sutural angles obtusely rounded, dorsum subopaque. Head dark rufous becoming very dark (nearly black), on occiput; pubescence short, rather dense, yellow, darker on occiput. Antennae

with scape and funicle red, sparsely clothed with short flavous hairs, clava consisting of three enlarged segments, dark piceous, inner angles of the first and second segments of clava produced into flattened rami, which are obtusely rounded at their apices, three enlarged segments of clava together longer than two-thirds total length of antenna. Prothorax dark rich red, as broad as long, quadrate, sides parallel, pronotum dark rich rufous, clothed with long, dense golden yellow sericeous recumbent hairs, median longitudinal vitta extending from base to apical margin, nude, exposing the integumental ground color, wide at base, which has neither a tubercle nor a costa present, disk with fine, dense, feebly impressed punctures. Scutellum obscurely rufous. Elytra wider at base than prothorax, wider posteriorly, sides feebly, broadly rounded to apex, which is conjointly obtusely rounded, sutural angles obtusely rounded, color piceous, suture, lateral and apical margins narrowly yellowish-red, pubescence concolorous with the surface from which it arises, short, fine and rather sparse. Metasternum dark red, sparsely feebly punctured, at sides densely punctured. Abdomen shining, dark piceous, apical segment reddish, coarsely, sparsely and feebly punctate, sides with a few long yellow hairs. Legs red, rather densely coarsely punctured rather densely clothed with long hairs, tarsi of all legs fuscous, tibiae of middle fuscous, tibiae of front and hind legs fuscous at apex.

Length (in present specimen), 10 mm.

O. quadraticollis Chevr., and *O. lepida* Klug are the only members of the genus, as far as known to the writer, in which the suture and lateral margins are margined with a pale color. *O. lepida* is a small species (4.5 mm. long) of Cuba, and bears but little resemblance to Spinola's species. Chevrolat (Rev. Mag. Zoöl., 1874, p. 329) described under *O. damicornis* F. a supposed variety which he designated as "Var. D." from Cuba, it is identical with *lepida*.

In occasional specimens of *O. binotata* Gorham the elytra may be margined in a similar manner to *quadraticollis*, but may be readily distinguished by the maculations of the pronotum. *O. suturalis* Chevrolat, blue-black, with the suture and elytral apices broadly reddish has a dark pronotum. *O. cyanipennis* Chapin and *O. hintoni* Wolcott, are the only species in which the elytra are of a distinct blue color. *O. punctatissima* Chevr., and *O. texana* Bland, are closely allied species, in the former the antennae are black, piceous at base, head clothed with rather dense gray pubescence; the latter has the head clothed with short golden-yellow hairs, the antenna with the scape and funicle dark rufous with yellow hairs, clava black. *O. teneroides* Gorham has the sides of

the prothorax broadly. feebly rounded, the punctation of the very black elytra is much coarser than in any of the other known species. The pronotum with rather long, dense, sericeous golden yellow pilosity at each side middle of disk. *O. damicornis* Fab., has the head black, clothed with black hairs, the pronotum red with the sides and base narrowly margined with black, and the elytra feebly shining.

These notes and the key which follows should facilitate identification of the several species.

KEY TO THE AMERICAN SPECIES OF ORTHOPEURA SPINOLA

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Pubescence of pronotum evenly distributed..... | 2 |
| Pubescence of pronotum so distributed as to form vittae..... | 3 |
| 2. Pronotum dark piceous..... | 4 |
| Pronotum wholly or in part red..... | 5 |
| 5. Elytra wholly red..... | 6 |
| Elytra distinctly blue..... | 7 |
| Elytra black or blue-black..... | 8 |
| Elytra piceous | 9 |
| 4. Elytra with suture broadly and apex, pitchy red..... | |
| <i>suturalis</i> Chev. | |
| Elytra uniformly piceous..... | <i>guadeloupensis</i> n. sp. |
| 7. Pronotum with feeble tubercle and costa..... | <i>hintoni</i> n. sp. |
| Pronotum with tubercle and costa wanting..... | <i>cyanipennis</i> Chpn. |
| 8. Elytra blue-black, elytral margins pale yellowish-red..... | |
| <i>lepida</i> Klug | |
| Elytra black, very coarsely punctured..... | <i>teneroides</i> Gorh. |
| Elytra black, rather finely punctured..... | <i>damicornis</i> Fab. |
| 9. Funicle red, head clothed with golden-yellow hairs..... | |
| <i>texana</i> Bland. | |
| Funicle black, head clothed with gray hairs..... | |
| <i>punctatissima</i> Chev. | |
| 6. Thorax red, sides and three vittae, black..... | <i>purpurea</i> Gorh. |
| 3. Thorax red, elytra piceous, suture and lateral margins yellow..... | 10 |
| 10. Pronotum with a narrow nude median vitta dark red..... | |
| <i>quadraticollis</i> Spin. | |
| Pronotum with distinct spots and vittae of integumented color..... | 11 |
| 11. Pronotum with two large ovate dark spots at base..... | |
| <i>binotata</i> Gorh. | |
| Pronotum with sides and two linear vittae, black..... | |
| <i>ichnoides</i> Chev. | |

APPENDIX

Orthopleura guadeloupensis Wolcott, new species

Piceous, thinly clothed with fine, short brown pubescence. Antennae with scape and following segment red, infusate, balance of funicle dark piceous, clava finely clothed with short, gray pubescence, clava formed as in *O. quadraticollis* Spinola, but very pale piceous, nearly rufous, finely pubescent. Pronotum piceous, densely, sparsely and coarsely punctate. Elytra dark reddish piceous, punctured as usual in this genus, at apex densely clothed with flavo-cinereous pubescence. Abdomen rufous, densely rather coarsely punctate, the segments each with their posterior margins dark piceous, fifth segment elongate trapezoidal semi-circularly emarginate at apex, sixth ventral segment short, obtusely rounded at apex. Metasternum dark piceous, punctate. Legs piceous red, densely and rather coarsely punctured. Length, 5.7 mm.

Holotype, a male in the collection of the writer, GUADELOUPE. (Staudinger).

A TAXONOMIC NOTE ON *ARADUS DEPICTUS* VAN DUZEE

This species was synonymized with *concinus* Bergroth by me (Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 29:495, 1936) because no mention was made of distinctive characters in the original description, the characters mentioned by Parshley (Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 47: 47-50, 1921) were variable in the series of specimens before me, and the ranges of the two forms overlapped. Dr. Parshley (*in litt.*) has since called my attention to constant structural differences in the antennae which serve to distinguish the two species.

In *concinus* the antennae are relatively short and the second segment is slightly shorter than the interocular space and evenly narrowed to just before the base. In *depictus* the antennae are longer, the second segment being longer than the interocular space, rather evenly thickened on its apical two-thirds, and abruptly narrowed at basal third. The third segment is less than half as long as second in *concinus* and more than half as long as second in *depictus*. In *concinus* the second segment is usually annulate with white at middle and at apex whereas it is entirely brown in *depictus*. The scutellum is relatively broader in *concinus*.—R. L. USINGER.